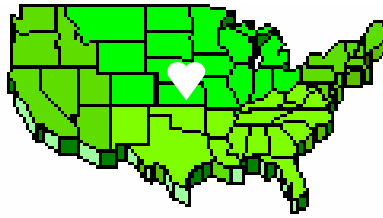




# FARM SERVICE FOCUS

FARM  
SERVICE  
AGENCY



Smith County FSA Office  
319 School Avenue  
Smith Center, KS 66967

COUNTY COMMITTEE:  
Robert Koops      CHAIRPERSON  
Mary Arment,      VICE-CHAIRPERSON  
Darin Hawkins,    MEMBER

**Cary J. Tucker**  
County Executive Director

REGULAR MEETING DATE SECOND  
THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH, 8:00 A.M.

**FROM THE HEART OF THE USA**

OFFICE HOURS 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
TELE: 785-282-3832 FAX 785-282-6830

**May, 2006**

## 2006 DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP)

Signup for the 2006 DCP program will end on **June 1, 2006**. Under the DCP, you must designate shares and sign a new DCP contract each year. Producers requesting to signup after June 1 will be charged a \$100 late-filing fee. No further enrollment will be allowed after September 30, 2006. Advance payments are available. The final direct payments will be issued in October 2006.

There is a \$40,000 payment limitation for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments. Advance CC (counter cyclical) payments are to be issued in October and February following the crop year, if determined eligible.

Farms that are involved with a reconstitution can not be enrolled until the reconstitution is completed. Producers may sign-up online for DCP at [http://www.fsa.usda.gov/egov/edcp\\_default.htm](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/egov/edcp_default.htm) providing there are no changes to the farm. The local FSA office would need to process changes prior to signing up over the web.

### CCC COMMODITY LOANS AND LDP'S

The **2006 crop loan rates** for Smith County are:

Wheat	\$2.78	Grain Sorghum	\$3.17 cwt.
Corn	1.93	Sunflowers	9.14 cwt.
Oats	1.34	Soybean	4.76
Barley	1.75		

**The final date to request a 2005 sorghum, corn, soybean, or sunflower loan or LDP is May 31, 2006.**

### USING E-FILE TO SIGNUP

Producers may now signup for the DCP program and file for LDP's online through *E-File*. We encourage producers who feel comfortable in using online access to use the E-file process. Advancements have been made to make this process a painless method of signing into farm programs. It also entitles you to timely access your farm program benefits. With programs such as LDP's, when numerous applications are filed in an FSA office on a single day, filing your application on line through E-file may be an advantage.

To be able to E-file a producer must obtain an *e-Authentication Level 2 Account* by completing an 18 question customer profile. Access <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> and "click" on *Create An Account Page*. Complete the profile, which includes setting a user ID and password, and submit online. A confirmation Email is received and must be responded to within 7 days. Then take your state or federal photo ID to a FSA Office to be identity proofed. After FSA updates your account you will have access to USDA online applications and forms within one hour. **Additional online services** are available at: <http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov/> or for FSA information <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/psd/>. Power of Attorney (POA) issues are being addressed but manual forms must still be generated and signed by the POA and sent to the county office at this time.

### CRP EXTENSIONS

Producers with CRP Contracts expiring in October of 2007 have been notified of their REX extension or reenrollment options. The final date to sign to extend or reenroll the CRP Contract was April 28, 2006.

Producers with CRP Contracts expiring in October of 2008, 2009, and 2010 were recently notified of their REX extension or reenrollment options. The final date to extend or reenroll the CRP Contract is **June 30, 2006**.

Acceptance of the CRP offer is through payment of a compliance service fee for spot-check. FSA will be viewing each field to see that the CRP practice is eligible for extension or reenrollment. The following are some items that would cause a CRP Contract to be in noncompliance:

*Noxious weeds not being controlled, presence of trees on a practice of grass mix only, roads or driving lanes made on the CRP acreage, hay bales, machinery, etc. stored on the CRP and wildlife food plots not planted or maintained.*

In completing some of the compliance reviews for extension requests we have found CRP Contracts that are not meeting these compliance provisions. FSA is working with producers wanting to gain compliance but **immediate** attention by the producer must be provided. The ground must meet compliance provisions by mid year. If you have a problem area contact our office and keep the line of communications open as to your intentions and when improvement actions are complete. FSA will complete a final inspection on the CRP Contract to see that compliance has been met.

**YOUTH LOANS**

FSA makes loans to individual rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs, Future Farmers of America, and similar organizations. Each project must be part of an organized and supervised program of work. The project must be planned and operated with the help of the organization adviser, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. To qualify for a loan, an applicant must:

- \*\*be a citizen of the United States (or a permanent resident), which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; be between 10 and 20 years old;
- \*\*live in a town of less than 10,000 people;
- \*\*be unable to obtain a loan from other sources;
- \*\*conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work, as outlined above.

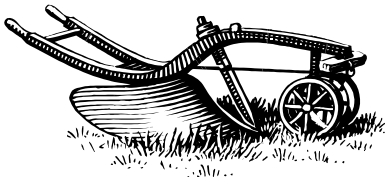
Applicants must also be capable of planning, managing, and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project adviser. The project adviser must recommend the project and the loan, and agree to provide adequate supervision.

**REPORT FSA FARM RECORD CHANGES**

Direct and counter cyclical payments (DCP) are paid in advance at the producer’s request for all crops on a farm unit. Failure to report record changes such as the sale of any acreage, operator change for either fall or spring crops, estate or other entity formation or dissolution will require a repayment of all DCP advances. That means that the county office must know of operator or owner changes prior to paying the DCP payment. If you anticipate selling acreage or will change operators during the farm program year do not take advance payments and inform the Farm Service Agency (FSA) staff of your intentions. All changes must be reported to the county office within 30 days of the change. Failure to report changes may cause the loss of program benefits.

**COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION**

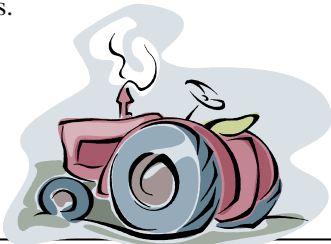
Nominations for county committee person in the east portion of the county, Local Administrative Area (LAA 1) are being accepted. This includes the Townships of German, Swan, Cedar, Valley, Dor, Pleasant, Harvey and Houston. **Nominations will be accepted through August 1, 2006.** Nomination forms (FSA-669A’s) may be obtained at the county office or are available on the internet at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections>. The form will be under the heading “election materials”. The candidate must live in and be an eligible voter in the above listed LAA. Any producer may nominate a potential COC member.



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14<sup>th</sup> and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

**FARM STORED FACILITY LOANS AVAILABLE**

Farm Stored Facility Loans (FSFL) are loans to build new grain storage structures, make certain safety improvements to existing bins and in limited cases add capacity to existing bins. The interest rate for Farm Stored Facility Loans (FSFL) approved in the month of May is 4.875 percent. The interest rate in effect on the month the FSFL is approved will remain in effect for the 7 years of the repayment period. Call or visit the office for loan requirements.



**NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP) INFORMATION**

Following are the final dates to purchase NAP: *September 1: Oats for forage, seeded small grains for pasture, December 1: Alfalfa and grass for hay and/or grazing and March 15: Sorghum cane for forage and other spring planted forage crops. **REPORT ALL LOSSES WITHIN 15 DAYS OF THE LOSS EVENT. No late filed losses will be approved. Turn in 2005 production evidence by June 1. Bale weights and silage load weights are required. Keep your production diary for the current and three previous years.***

**SODBUSTING, PURCHASED LAND AND FARM PLANS**

Prior to breaking any acreage including expired Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres and before planting a crop on newly purchased or rented acreage, check the Conservation Plan of Operation (CPO). Planting a crop on sodbusted acreage or on newly acquired land that does not have a completed CPO will cause the loss of all USDA benefits on all acreage owned and operated. Form AD-1026 must be approved by the Natural Resource Conservation Service prior to breaking any acreage or planting a crop on acreage that does not have a completed CPO.